

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please Cancel Claims 1, 2 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) A process for the preparation of phenylene-bis-benzimidazole-tetrasulfonic acid di-sodium salt comprising the step of reacting o-phenylene-diamine with terephthalic acid and chlorosulfonic acid in the presence of strong acids, wherein the reaction time is 10 to 15 hours and wherein the phenylene-bis-benzimidazole-tetrasulfonic acid obtained in the reaction is, in a first step, dissolved in water and treated with activated carbon, which is then separated off, and where the phenylene-bis-benzimidazole-tetrasulfonic acid disodium salt is precipitated out by adding sodium chloride and separated off and, in a second step, is again dissolved in water and again treated with activated carbon, which is then again separated off, where pure phenylene-bis-benzimidazole-tetrasulfonic acid disodium salt precipitates out of the filtrate by acidification and is then optionally also purified.